

# Protect your Pet from PET THEFT!

Each year, thousands of family pets are stolen and sold unknowingly to buyers that answer "Free to Good Home" ads. Sadly, others are illegally sold for medical research. Don't let your pet become the next victim!

**DON'T** leave pets unattended in your yard and **DON'T** allow them to be visible from the street. It only takes a minute for thieves to steal them.

**DON'T** tie your dog up outside of restaurants or stores and NEVER leave your pet unattended in a car.

**DON'T** use "free to good home" newspaper ads to place your pet. Take your pet to a shelter or ask the shelter staff how to contact rescue groups. Ask friends and family members first to see if they might be able to adopt your pet or provide temporary housing for them until you find a good home.

**DON'T** place your pet into a new home until you interview the potential adopter. Make sure to conduct a home visit and check references. Ask them about any prior pets they have had, how they will care for their new pet, and the name of their current or potential veterinarian.

**DON'T** place your pet until the adopter has signed a contract stating that they will return the pet to you if they are no longer able to care for it or if they no longer desire to keep it. They should also pay an adoption fee (this assigns value to the pet and shows that they are willing to provide proper care for them).

**DON'T** allow an adopter to take your pet from your home. Always take the pet to the new adopter's home.

**DO** keep your dog indoors, especially when you are not home. Outdoor dogs should be kept safely behind a locked gate.

**DO** walk your dog on a leash when not confined on your property – it's the law!

**DO** keep cats strictly indoors. Indoor cats live longer, safer, healthier, and happier lives.

**DO** provide your pets with collars, ID tags, and licenses. Talk to your veterinarian about backup forms of identification such as microchipping and tattooing.

**DO** report suspicious neighborhood activities and/or missing pets to your local animal control agency and/or the police.

**DO** keep pets safely inside your home when you are expecting repair persons, meter readers, or other service providers.

**DO** keep recent photos and written descriptions of your pet(s) on hand at all times.

**DO** spay and neuter your pets. Altered pets are less likely to stray from home.

**DO** educate family members, friends, and neighbors about pet theft.



**San Bernardino County  
Animal Care & Control Program  
1-800-472-5609**